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## NEW YORK

# Father-and-son owners of NYC moving company held customer belongings hostage, demanded tacked-on fees: feds

By **CARLA ROMAN** and **CHELSIA ROSE MARCIUS**  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | OCT 29, 2019





Michael Nadel and son Yarin Nadel, of Fresh Meadows, are accused of a \$100,000 fraud scheme for allegedly tacking on the unexpected fees, often upwards of 10% of the original estimate, authorities said. If customers refused to pay, the Nadels would threaten to sell or auction off their belongings. (Getty Images)

Movers, keepers.

The father-and-son owners of a shady Queens moving company were arrested Tuesday over claims they held customer belongings hostage while demanding exorbitant tacked-on fees, officials said Tuesday.

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Michael Nadel, 65, and son Yarin Nadel, 35, of Fresh Meadows, are accused of a \$100,000 fraud scheme for allegedly tacking on the unexpected fees, often upwards of 10% of the original estimate, authorities said. If customers refused to pay, the Nadel family would threaten to sell or auction off their belongings.

The Nadel family solicited out-of-state customers making state-to-state moves through online ads, according to a civil complaint filed in March.

Jake Hammock, 31, a former U.S. Army captain, hired a company owned by the Nadel family for a move from Washington D.C. to Salt Lake City last year. When he refused to pay sudden extra fees the company refused to deliver his belongings.

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“I did not have any furniture for the first 11 months,” he said of his move. “I ended up having to buy another bed set”

“The furniture was finally delivered over an agreement through the courts,” he added. “A few items never made it”

“They had my (Army) dress uniforms from previous years of service and that was one of the main items I wanted back,” he added. “A stone mug from my deployment in Afghanistan was returned damaged.”

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The six companies owned by the Nadels misrepresented the number of moving trucks they registered through the U.S. Department of Transportation as well as the number of movers who would transport goods and the size of the vehicles, according to court papers.

“They had my stuff for about two months. The worst of it was the not knowing (what would happen),” said 47-year-old Angela Bynum, who hired one of the Nadels’s companies, Moving State to State NY Inc., last year to help her relocate from Virginia to Washington.

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Bynum said she was presented an initial quote of \$4,800. But once her items were loaded in the moving truck, she was ordered to hand over an additional \$3,000 in cash. When she refused, they threw her belongings in storage.

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“(I called) them daily to find out where my stuff was, which they wouldn’t tell me,” Bynum said. “One of their ‘customer service’ reps wound up yelling at me on the day before Thanksgiving (that) she was the only one working and didn’t have any answers for me.”

She got her stuff back after two months after threatening legal action, she said.

“The defendants, together with others, quoted estimated charges for their moving services they had no intention of honoring,” federal prosecutors claim in court papers.

The Nadels were charged Tuesday with conspiracy to defraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud and four counts of making false statements. They were both released on \$20,000 bond after their arraignment in Brooklyn Federal Court.

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The father and son owned and operated Around the Clock Moving Services, Direct Van Lines Services., State to State Moving NY, Green Peace Transportation, Moving State to State and State to State Moving Group, all based in Queens, according to prosecutors.

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## Chelsia Rose Marcus

New York Daily News



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Chelsia Rose Marcus is a staff reporter at the New York Daily News. She is also the author of *Wild Escape: The Prison Break from Dannemora and the Manhunt that Captured America*. When she's not out covering crime for the paper, Chelsia teaches aspiring young journalists at New York University.

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